MARVEL

5

PIRZADA
MORTARINO
PROTOBUNKER
TARTAGLIA
DE LA CRUZ

CULT OF CARNAGE

MISERY

LIZ ALLAN IS THE **C.E.O. OF ALCHEMAX** AND THE WIDOW OF **HARRY OSBORN**. THROUGH A TRAGIC SERIES OF EVENTS INVOLVING SPIDER-MAN, HARRY WAS KILLED. NOW LIZ HAS TO RAISE THEIR SON, **NORMIE**, AND HIS HALF BROTHER, **STANLEY**, ON HER OWN. ALL WHILE RUNNING ALCHEMAX AND OVERSEEING THEIR COVERT EXPERIMENTS ON DANGEROUS PARASITIC ALIENS CALLED **SYMBIOTES**.

RECENTLY, THE SYMBIOTES WERE THE TARGET OF A DARING AND EXPLOSIVE HEIST, PERPETRATED BY A DISGRUNTLED FORMER ALCHEMAX EMPLOYEE NAMED **CORWIN JONES**. JONES MADE OFF WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE SYMBIOTE SAMPLES IN ALCHEMAX'S POSSESSION AND GRAVELY WOUNDED LIZ IN THE PROCESS. IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO SAVE HER LIFE, SHE WAS BONDED TO THE TWO SPECIMENS JONES HADN'T STOLEN: **CARNAGE** AND **ANTI-VENOM**.

WHILE LIZ RECOVERED, JONES WAS BONDED TO ALL OF THE SYMBIOTES HE STOLE, ALL AT ONCE: RIOT, PHAGE, AGONY, LASHER, SCREAM AND TOXIN. TOGETHER, BONDED TO A SINGLE HOST, THEY BECAME PURE **MADNESS**! MADNESS DEFEATED MISERY, DELIVERING HER TO THE **LIFE FOUNDATION** IN ORDER TO CREATE **THE SYMBIOTECHS**! WHILE THESE DEADLY HALF-SYMBIOTE, HALF-TECH WARRIORS WERE UNLEASHED UPON **SPIDER-MAN** AND ALLY **SPEARHEAD**, LIZ AND MISERY MANAGED TO REGENERATE THEMSELVES...ONLY TO FIND **LILY HOLLISTER**, **A.K.A QUEEN CAT**, WAITING FOR THEM...

CULT OF CARNAGE

MISERY

SABIR PIRZADA
WRITER

FRANCESCO MORTARINO
PENCILER

FRANCESCO MORTARINO; VICTOR NAVA; BELARDINO BRABO
INKERS

JAVA TARTAGLIA; PROTOBUNKER'S DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA AND CECI DE LA CRUZ
COLOR ARTISTS

VC'S JOE SABINO
LETTERER

SKAN
COVER ARTIST

ADAM DEL RE
DESIGNER

TOM GRONEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

SO, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN STALKING ME AND MY CHILD.
STANLEY IS MY CHILD, ACTUALLY.

ACK--

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW YOU EXIST, HOLLISTER. BECAUSE YOU **ABANDONED** HIM TO RUN AROUND WITH A GOBLIN CULT.*

STANLEY IS **NOT** YOUR CHILD.

*SEE **SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #16.**

AND YET HE CALLS YOU "AUNT LIZ..."

...BECAUSE HE **KNOWS** YOU'RE NOT HIS MOTHER.

HSSSS.

HARRY KEPT A SECRET PHONE. HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW HE WAS STILL IN TOUCH WITH YOU. WHY?

I DON'T KNOW, BECAUSE I NEVER ANSWERED HIS CALLS. I HAD AMNESIA.

-KOFF--KOFF--- NOT THAT IT MATTERS. I'M BETTER NOW. I BET THAT'S ALL HARRY WANTED. TO KNOW I WAS OKAY.

AND IF HE DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT ME, IT WAS PROBABLY OUT OF RESPECT FOR MY PRIVACY. NOT SOME SLIGHT AGAINST YOU.

HARRY HAD HIS ISSUES-- WE ALL DO. BUT HE WAS A GOOD PERSON. AND HE LOVED YOU.

...

WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?

YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO STANLEY. JUST BECAUSE I WANT TO BE BACK IN MY SON'S LIFE DOESN'T MEAN I WANT TO ERASE YOU FROM IT.

I APPRECIATE THAT, BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU ANYWHERE NEAR HIM.

I GET IT. I WASN'T FIT TO BE STANLEY'S MOTHER BEFORE. BUT I GOT HELP. I GOT ***BETTER***.

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU ***LIVE FOR***, TO GIVE PEOPLE SECOND CHANCES? AFTER ALL, MARK RAXTON'S STILL AN UNCLE TO NORMIE, ISN'T HE?

THAT'S DIFFERENT. WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR--YOU'D BE DISRUPTING STANLEY'S LIFE. HE DOESN'T EVEN ***KNOW*** YOU.

YOU CAN'T KEEP HIM SAFE, LIZ. HE'S BEEN ATTACKED TWICE THIS MONTH ALONE. AND I'VE SEEN OTHER THINGS...DANGERS, LURKING SO OBVIOUSLY CLOSE TO YOU, AND YOU HAVE NO ***IDEA*** THEY EXIST, BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT DOESN'T MATTER. AS LONG AS YOU'RE A C.E.O. AND PUBLIC FIGURE CONNECTED TO ***NORMAN OSBORN***, YOU CAN'T KEEP STANLEY SAFE.

MAYBE LIZ ALLAN COULDN'T.

BUT ***MISERY*** CAN.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

'CUS I GOT A FEELIN' YOU'RE GONNA COME UP SHORT AGAIN, TOOTS.

MADNESS?!

"TARGET ACQUIRED."

MEANWHILE...

BLAM BLAM BLAM

EXECUTION IN PROGRESS!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

REALLY?! **SYMBIOTES** WEREN'T ENOUGH--THEY GOTTA BE UNDEAD **CYBORG** TROOPERS TOO?

CLANK

AT LEAST THEY COME APART MORE EASILY!

SCHLOOP

WELL, THAT'S GROSS.

YOU GUYS ARE BULLETPROOF, RIGHT?

WHERE'D THESE SYMBIOTES COME FROM, ANYWAY? I THOUGHT THEY WERE ACCOUNTED FOR BY OTHER HOSTS.

THEY WERE GROWN IN A LAB OUT OF SMALL SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE ORIGINAL SYMBIOTES...

...FORCIBLY BONDED TO ***BRAINDEAD HUMANS*** RENANIMATED WITH ***ROBOTICS***.

UNH!

HSSSS!

THEY WERE ABLE TO ***PERFECTLY REPLICATE*** EACH SYMBIOTES' GENOME AND ABILITIES?!

CLUNK

ORDINARILY, I'D SAY "HOORAY FOR SCIENCE," BUT IN THIS CASE, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

YOU'RE THE MILITARY STRATEGIST, SPEARHEAD--WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW?

HONESTLY? THEY KILLED OUR ENTIRE TEAM.

WE WERE ***NEVER*** GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE.

"YOU'RE OVER YOUR HEAD ON THIS ONE."

ALLOW ME TO REMOVE IT FOR YOU.

SKRRTCH

ANOTHER CRAZY BLOND CHICK, HUH?

NYARGH!

NO, THANKS.

SPLURK

URK--!

WHUMP

WHY STOP THERE?

I AGREE. FINISH HER.

NO. THE OTHER ONE'S THE BIGGER THREAT. DEAL WITH HER FIRST.

ENOUGH!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, CORWIN?

NO ONE YOU NEED TO WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT, HOT STUFF.

NOW. I CAN CHOP YOU UP INTO LITTLE PIECES AND FREEZE YOU IN CHUNKS OF ICE, BUT YOU'LL STILL COME BACK, BECAUSE YOU CAN REGENERATE--

--SO LONG AS YOU GOT THIS SYMBIOTE ATTACHED TO YOU.

RIP

RIP

RIPP

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN SYMBIOTE, **CORWIN?** THAT COMBINATION OF DIFFERENT STRANDS CAN'T BE EASY TO MAINTAIN.

A LOT OF VOICES TO TAME, ISN'T IT?

HSSS!

I DOUBT YOU CAN HANDLE ONE MORE. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S CARRYING **ANTI-VENOM**.

AAAAUGH!

HSSS!

AND ESPECIALLY NOT THIS ONE. YOU SEE, IT MAY NOT TALK LIKE A TRADITIONAL SYMBIOTE, BUT IT COMMUNICATES WITH **FEELINGS**...

HSSS!

HSSS!

STOP! GET OFF! GET OUT OF MY HEAD!

WE MAKE QUITE A PAIR, DON'T WE?

...AND ONE CAN ONLY HANDLE SO MUCH **MISERY**.

HAAAHHH... SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, SPIDER-MAN, BUT I THINK I'M AT THE END OF THE ROAD HERE.

POOM POOM POOM POOM

HNG!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

WHUMP

UNGHHH...

SPEARHEAD?

OKAY, BUDDY. NO PROBLEM. YOU DID GOOD. YOU CAN REST...

...I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

STEP ONE-- BLIND EVERYONE WITH WEBBING TO BUY MYSELF A BREATH OR TWO.

STEP TWO-- DIVIDE AND CONQUER.

BONK

SOMETHING I'VE NOTICED ABOUT YOU GUYS? YOU DON'T *TALK* MUCH.

MY THEORY IS, IT'S BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO SYNCHRONIZE YOUR BRAINS, THE SYMBIOTES *AND* A COMPUTER INTERFACE INTO ONE ENTITY.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN THE THREE POINTS IS *SEVERED?*

HISSS

HISSS

HISS HISS HISS HISSS

HOORAY FOR SCIENCE.

"I WAS HOPING WE'D GET A CHANCE TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT."

CARLTON DRAKE. YOU'VE BEEN A VERY BAD C.E.O.

PLEASE, LIZ. JEALOUSY'S NOT YOUR COLOR. LET'S FACE IT--I ACCOMPLISHED WHAT YOU COULD NOT. I'VE WEAPONIZED STRANDS OF SYMBIOTES IN A CONTROLLABLE WAY. YOU SHOULD SEE THE ***SYMBIOTECHS*** IN ACTION. THEY'RE QUITE THE SIGHT.

PERHAPS THAT'S TRUE, BUT YOU'VE GOT ONE LOOSE END. CORWIN JONES, WHO SUCCUMBED TO THE MADNESS OF ATTEMPTING TO HARNESS TOO MANY SYMBIOTES AT ONCE.

YOUR OBITUARY WILL STATE THAT IT WAS CORWIN WHO SNAPPED YOUR NECK.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU ASSIGN ALL PATENTS TO ALCHEMAX, WHICH WILL BE TAKING CREDIT FOR YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE SYMBIOTE SPACE.

OTHERS WOULD BE TEMPTED TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE CHANGED, LIZ ALLAN. THAT THIS IS THE ***SYMBIOTE*** TALKING. NOT POOR, SWEET LIZ. SHE'D NEVER THREATEN TO KILL SOMEONE AS A BUSINESS MANEUVER.

BUT I KNOW THE ***REAL*** YOU. YOU REALLY WERE THE PERFECT FIT FOR HARRY OSBORN, BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST AS ***TWISTED*** AS HE WAS.

DO WE HAVE A DEAL?

ACK-- YES, DAMN YOU--

KNOCK KNOCK

HI THERE. I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING.

I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR LIZ ALLAN.

OH, SPIDER-MAN. SORRY IF I ALARMED PEOPLE WITH MY ABSENCE.

CARLTON AND I WERE TALKING OVER A VERY CLANDESTINE DEAL, SO I HAD TO DROP OFF THE GRID FOR A WHILE.

UH-HUH. SURE.

ALCHEMAX LABS. ONE WEEK LATER.

ALL THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ***THE LIFE FOUNDATION*** CHECKS OUT. THEY'VE WEAPONIZED SYMBIOTES, ALL RIGHT. THEY'VE JUST DONE IT BY COMPROMISING HUMANS.

WE'VE BEEN WARNED, TIME AND AGAIN, ABOUT THE DANGER OF THE SYMBIOTES.

NOW I KNOW IT FIRSTHAND. IT'S NO PICNIC WHEN YOU'RE ON THE RECEIVING END. I CAN'T LET THE EXPERIMENTS CONTINUE ANY LONGER.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXISTING SYMBIOTECHS?

ENSURE THAT THEIR HOSTS RECEIVE A PROPER BURIAL, NOTIFY THE FAMILIES AND CREATE A REHABILITION PROGRAM FOR THE SYMBIOTES. AND REBUILD THE GUARDSMEN.

HAVE YOU HEARD ANY NEWS ON CORWIN JONES YET?

"HE'S STILL OUT THERE...SOMEWHERE."

NOK NOK

DADDY!

HEY THERE, LITTLE PUMPKIN. GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU. KEEP HER IN YOUR ROOM, AND I PROMISE YOU'LL ALWAYS BE SAFE.

SURE. SHE'S SAFE. JUST SO LONG AS YOU DO EXACTLY WHAT WE TELL YOU.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND US, MR. JONES?

...I UNDERSTAND.

UNDERSTAND WHAT?

NOTHING, SWEETIE. HOW ARE YOUR GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALES COMING ALONG?

A FEW DAYS LATER.

HARRY OSBORN

YOUR OFFICE SAID YOU WERE OUT. THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED TODAY'S DATE. I FIGURED YOU WERE HERE.

HEY, PETER.

JUST WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU. YOU GAVE NORMAN QUITE THE SCARE WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED.

SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M OKAY NOW. REALLY.

HARRY'D BE PROUD OF YOU IN EVERY WAY, YOU KNOW.

I'LL STILL MISS THE BEST SIDES OF HIM UNTIL THE DAY I DIE...

...BUT I CAN ADMIT NOW THAT HARRY WASN'T PERFECT.

HE HURT ME A FEW TIMES.

OH, LIZ...

I'M SO SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE DONE MORE.

NO, I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO APOLOGIZE. I SAW THE SIGNS. I KNEW HARRY WAS THREATENING YOU. THAT HE WAS **DANGEROUS**. AND I...I JUST STOOD THERE. IT WAS WRONG.

NONE OF THAT MATTERS NOW. WHAT MATTERS IS HOW WE MOVE FORWARD.

YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND, PETER.

LATER.

WILL YOU LET ME KNOW WHEN SHE WAKES UP? MS. HOLLISTER AND I HAVE A LOT TO DISCUSS.

OF COURSE. FROM OUR ASSESSMENTS, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S RECEIVED EXCELLENT NEUROLOGICAL CARE TO HELP RESTORE HER MEMORIES.

"I SUSPECT SHE HAS FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES."

LILY HOLLISTER BETRAYED US. SHE PROMISED TO BRING US NORMAN OSBORN'S YOUNGEST HEIR. BUT IT APPEARS SHE'S CHANGED HER MIND.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, KOLINA?

SUMMON THE OTHER SCRIERS. YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT, YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT YOURSELF...

HEY. SO, I WAS HOPING TO TALK TO YOU. I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID. ABOUT HOW I ALWAYS NEED SOMETHING TO FIX. AND I THINK YOU WERE RIGHT.

THERE'S ***NEVER*** GOING TO BE A PERFECT TIME FOR ME TO JUMP INTO A RELATIONSHIP. AND IF I KEEP WAITING FOR THAT, WELL...THEN ***I'M*** THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO NEED FIXING.

I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS, I WANT TO TRY TO MAKE IT WORK. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, THAT IS.

ALCHEMAX LABS. 12:35 A.M.

"UNTIL THE DAY WHEN GOD SHALL DEIGN TO REVEAL THE FUTURE TO MAN...

WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP

"...ALL HUMAN WISDOM IS SUMMED UP IN THESE TWO WORDS: WAIT AND HOPE." *ALEXANDRE DUMAS.*

WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP

SNAP

BUT, OF COURSE, HE WAS REFERRING TO HUMAN WISDOM, AND I AM NO HUMAN. I CERTAINLY DON'T POSSESS THE PATIENCE TO WAIT...

BRASH

...AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR HOPE WHEN ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER.

NOW, THEN... WHAT'S A CHIMPANZEE TO DO?

THE END!

SYMBIWROTE

TOM GRONEMAN
ASSIOCIATE EDITOR
DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR
NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE END...FOR NOW!

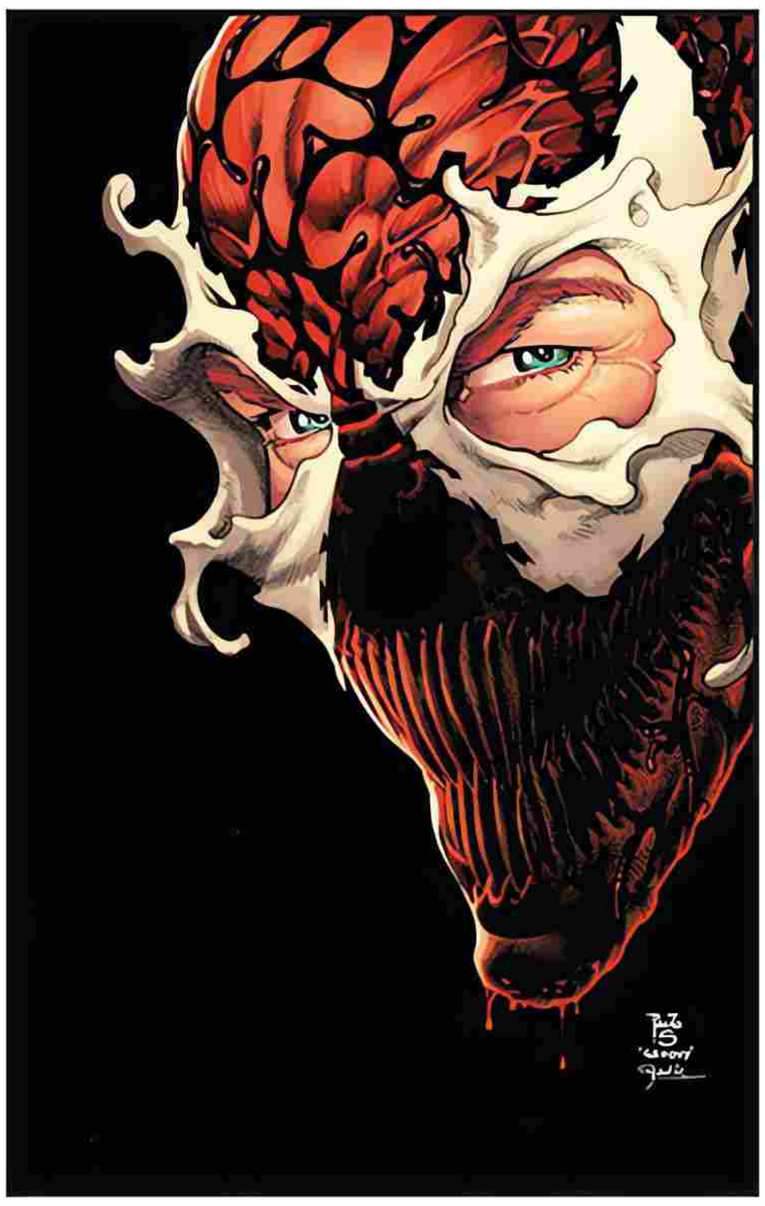
Hello, Miserables!

Symbiote Editor Devin Lewis coming to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York! We're officially in the final stretch of the Summer of Symbiotes, and as the summer comes to a close, so too does the saga of MISERY—at least in this format!

But face front, True Believers! Because even though this five-issue symbiote celebration is coming to a close, we've got plans for Liz/Misery, Grace and even Madness! Indeed, something tremendous is coming for the entire symbiotic ensemble, and by this time next year, all of Mighty Marveldom will be abuzz with the symbiote story of the century! Be sure to tell your comic shops to add all the symbiote series to your pull list because, from ABSOLUTE CARNAGE to WEB OF VENOM, the entire hive of symbiote series writers have done their homework, and something BIG is coming! The stage is already set, and some of the players have already taken their places!

ITEM! While Misery, Madness, Grace and the rest cavort about the Marvel Universe, the boldest and baddest symbiote of them all, CARNAGE, is on an adventure all its own through the Multiverse. Abandoned by Venom and Eddie Brock at birth and now spurned by Cletus Kasady after a lifetime of his influence, the Carnage symbiote is working THROUGH some stuff with a singular mission in mind: KILL. ALL. VENOMS. From the murderers' row (zing!) of Cullen Bunn, Gerardo Sandoval and Jim Campbell, it's a violent and visceral saga that you won't want to miss!

ITEM! Hot off the heels of DEATH OF THE VENOMVERSE comes a new CARNAGE series from current VENOM co-writer TORUNN GRØNBEKK and one of the best illustrators in comics today, PERE PÉREZ! Rocketing out of the psyche-shifting ending of DEATH OF THE VENOMVERSE, the Carnage symbiote has faced all of its demons...almost. There's just one piece of emotional baggage it hasn't quite unpacked yet...its relationship with Cletus Kasady. With KILLER (zing!) covers from your favorites and mine, Paulo Siqueira and Rachelle Rosenberg, this CARNAGE series is one you can't afford to miss. After all, it's written by one of the creators jamming on VENOM right now... That's pretty convenient, huh?



But enough plugging! As is tradition for these final Mighty Marvel Missives, we reached out to the terrifically talented team, who combined efforts and made the comics mag you hold in your hands! And so we start with writer Sabir Pirzada, who's drafted up some words of thanks to you readers who've been with us the whole way through:

Liz Allan: mother and Fortune 500 C.E.O. by day. Vigilante by night. That wasn't the first idea we had for this series, but the second. The first idea was little more than a feeling, really. A feeling that the character Liz Allan deserved more attention than she had received so far in her publishing history. After all, her first appearance goes back to the very first page of the first appearance of Spider-Man ever, in AMAZING FANTASY #15. She has the first line of dialogue in the story, although she isn't given a name until AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #4. Since then, she's been a stepsister to the Molten Man, wife and widow to Harry Osborn and drug supplier for Eddie Brock, to name just a few roles she's played over the years. You might notice I keep defining Liz by her association with the men in her life. It's a force of habit I'm ashamed of, and I hope that this series helps to define Liz on her own terms moving forward—wherever she may end up next. Liz Allan deserves at least one happy ending in her life, and we couldn't help but give it to her—though, now that she is Misery incarnate, I think it's fair to say that danger will always be lurking around the corner. It's been a privilege to give a spotlight to Liz Allan, and we hope we did right by her original creators, Stan Lee and Steve Ditko.

My eternal thanks to my partner in crime, the Anti-Venom to my Carnage, Francesco Mortarino, who demonstrates on every page that he is the master of drawing Symbiotes, brought to stunning life by colorist Java Tartaglia. We've had many Symbiote voices speaking throughout the series, sometimes on the same panel of the same page, and for that we needed the brilliant talents of letterer VC's Joe Sabino. Thanks to Victor Nava and Dono Sánchez-Almara for lending your amazing talents along the way, and to Tom Groneman and Lindsey Cohick for enduring my many last-minute requests and working their magic to make this series the best it could be. This all originated with Devin Lewis's brilliant eye for possibility, and I can't thank him enough for letting me run wild on this series. And thank you, dear reader, for going on this symbiote-filled ride with us—for surviving killer dolls and SymbioTechs, and descending into Madness for a little while.

-Sabir Pirzada

Sabir's one of the best talents working at Marvel today, coming to us by way of *Marvel Studios' Ms. Marvel* on Disney+. FUN FACT! Sabir's next adventure crosses those proverbial streams, as he and Iman Vellani take over the MS. MARVEL mag! Iman and Sabir both are the REAL DEAL! So add that to your pull list too, while you're at it!

Not one to be outdone, illustrator Francesco Mortarino also drafted up a quick note for you symbiote fans!:

Yes!

I'll admit I'm a longtime Marvel fan, and so I still can't believe even now that I was able to put my pencil to the characters I read as I was a kid!

MISERY has been an amazing adventure as has working with the incredible people I have met: Sabir; Java; Victor; Devin and Tom and Lindsey!

But the greatest thank you goes to you readers and my family, who are supporting me in this journey of comics!

Thanks for reading!

Couldn't have said it better myself, Francesco! Series colorist Java Tartaglia also wanted to offer some words of thanks:

First of all, thank you to all the readers for picking up our story and following it until the end! It was a long path, on which I personally left a piece of myself through my colors and passion for what I love to do. I hope you all have enjoyed this story as much as we did. Thanks again!

That's all the space we've got for this one, readers!

MADNESS FOREVER!
Devin
8.9.23